

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
March 14, 2011

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson (by phone), Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Deputy Mayor Moran asked for a moment of silence in honor of the recent events in Japan. Ms. Moran also welcomed the UConn journalism students in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011 Special meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane, Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Paulhus who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2011 Special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jon Anderson, Old Turnpike Road, spoke to the importance of small community schools and stated his preference would be to keep Goodwin School and one of the schools in the south end of Town.

Kit Anderson, a current fourth grade student, asked that all three playscapes be kept and all teachers be retained.

Bob Bockholdt, Middle Turnpike, asked Council members to remember those on fixed incomes in Town. The cost of everything is increasing but their incomes are not. The Bockholdts feel blessed to be able to live in Mansfield and do not want to move.

Adele Lanza, Hillyndale Road, expressed her desire to keep Goodwin School open. Her main concerns are the effects the closing of the school would have on the property values in that area of Town and the length of potential bus rides. Steve Lanza, Hillyndale Road, wondered what effects the closing of Goodwin School would have on an area of Town where residents are trying to maintain the quality of the neighborhood.

Denise Abercrombie, Old Turnpike Road, remarked on the value of the decision to keep EOSmith High School near the University and urged the Council to make the same decision with regards to Goodwin.

Robin Bloomstram, South Eagleville Road, commented that 10% of Goodwin's students live in Holinko Estates which is within walking distance of the school.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, urged Council members to think ahead and to save money by investing in two new schools. Mr. Anderson prefers Goodwin School but could live with another site.

March 14, 2011

Katherine Paulhus, Middle Turnpike, speaking as a parent, reviewed the original reasons for the school building project which was for renovations. Ms. Paulhus believes the reason good teachers stay in Mansfield is that they like the small classes. She urged the Council to think ahead and make plans if the referendum fails.

April Holinko, Mansfield Depot, expressed disappointment with the March 1, 2011 meeting and asked that if Council members are at all concerned that the Town cannot afford this project that it be tabled.

Tulay Luciano, Warrenville Road, urged the Council to rescind the vote on the two school option. Ms. Luciano stated she has read all the material and fails to see how that option is justified.

Kyle Stearns, Stearns Road, spoke in favor of fixing the existing three schools. Mr. Stearns commented the current schools are small, friendly and neighborhood based.

John Hodgson, Wormwood Hill Road, asked the Council to make an objective decision on the siting of the two schools. And although he supports Southeast as a preferred site he asked the Council to make a decision based on what makes the most sense for the Town.

Jessica Higham, Adeline Place, urged the Council to pick Southeast School as one of the sites given its proximity to the Mansfield Hollow, the Library and the sport fields. Ms. Higham agreed with the remarks of Kit Andersen and asked the Council to maintain or move the landscapes.

John Fratiello, Daleville Road, worked in schools as a teacher and administrator for forty years and would support Southeast and Goodwin as the best sites for the new schools. Mr. Fratiello, however, would prefer renovating the existing schools on a cash basis. He is concerned the expense of the two new schools would mean fewer resources in the classrooms.

Blagoje Filipovic, Storrs Road, spoke in support of keeping one of the schools at Goodwin although he believes the three school option is the best. Mr. Filipovic noted that many parents in the Goodwin School area are not citizens and do not have the right to vote on these issues.

Julie Klimkiewicz, Sumner Drive, urged the Council to support siting one of the schools at Goodwin given its proximity to UConn. Ms. Klimkiewicz noted this proximity allows UConn students to participate in the school.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked the Council to present a certificate of appreciation to those firefighters and the babysitter who were involved in a recent emergency. Mr. Hossack also urged the Council to consider the taxpayers and not bring the school building issue to referendum. (Statement attached)

Bill Caneira, Candide Lane, urged support for the Annie Vinton site noting the school currently has the most students, the most residential sites in the area and the most potential for additional residential growth.

March 14, 2011

Jay Rueckl, South Eagleville Road, commented he believes the concept that three schools will be less expensive than two new ones is an illusion.

Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, commented the three existing schools are well built and have served the neighborhoods well. Mr. Pellegrine also noted there are many important projects in the Capital Improvement Budget which need to be addressed by the Town.

Andy Smith, Moulton Road, spoke in support of the three schools commenting that the Town has created something special that we do not want to lose.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, spoke in support of fixing the three existing schools. Mr. Sikoski questioned why the appointment to the Downtown Partnership was on the agenda three months prior to the expiration date of the term and reiterated his belief that all changes to fees must come before the Council.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to move Item1, School Building Project, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Keane requested the Council's standing committees not be scheduled on the same day.

Mr. Kochenburger commented on the bond rating given to the Town by Moody's Investing Services and thanked the Director of Finance for her work. Mr. Kochenburger requested the report be posted on the website. A press release will also be issued.

Mr. Paulhus requested the Town Manager prepare a proclamation for the firefighters and babysitter as requested by a citizen. The Town Manager will confirm the details with Chief Dagon.

Deputy Mayor Moran reported on a conversation she had with the Mayor of Lewisburg, PA home of Bucknell University. The two agreed the loser of the NCAA game will wear a t-shirt from the winner's school. Ms. Moran also attended the Friends of the Mansfield Hollow program on the last green river valley which she found very interesting.

Mr. Ryan announced that Joshua's Trust has received national accreditation. Town staff will prepare a proclamation in honor of the Trust.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. School Building Project

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to reconsider the motion approving referring the two school option and the middle school renovations to referendum.

The motion to reconsider passed with Keane, Lindsey, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Kochenburger, Moran, and Shapiro opposed.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to proceed to referendum with the two schools and the middle school renovations.

The motion failed with Kochenburger, Moran Paterson and Shapiro in favor and Keane, Lindsey, Paulhus, Ryan, and Schaefer opposed.

Mayor Paterson discontinued her participation by phone.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2. CT Healthy Campus Initiative

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective March 14, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to enter into an agreement to designate the Town of Mansfield to serve as the fiduciary agent for the Connecticut Healthy Campus Grant.

Motion passed unanimously.

##### 3. Appointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to appoint Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2011 and expiring on June 30, 2014.

Motion passed unanimously.

##### 4. Economic and Community Development Update

Town Manager Matt Hart presented a brief overview of the economic development plan for the Town. (Update attached) The Town is working to develop a comprehensive economic development plan. Council members thanked the Town Manager for the report and his efforts in this endeavor. The Town Manager will email directions to access the GIS system on the Town's website to Council members.

#### VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

#### IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Personnel Committee is considering new drafts of the Ethics Ordinance. The Town Manager reported that although the University is working to implement the recommendations of the Spring Weekend Task Force, the Town is still making plans for public safety for that weekend. Members expressed hope that people will honor the moratorium.

#### X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. E. Paterson re: Boy Scout Troop 56

6. G. Padick re: Roberge Property, 66 White Oak Road

7. C. Vincente re: Pool Incident Costs and Update Procedures

8. C. Vincente re: Response to Fee Question at Feb. 28, 2011 Town Council Meeting

9. Mansfield Self Storage re: Fire Assistance

March 14, 2011

10. Moody's Assigns Aa2 to Mansfield's (CT) \$2.8 Million GO Bonds
11. State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security re: Mansfield's Local Emergency Operations Plan
12. State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: Memorandum of Agreement, Campuswide Drainage Master Plan
13. Town of Mansfield Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2009-2010
14. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02-23-11
15. Chronicle "Mansfield Town Council wants school vote in May" – 02-23-11
16. Chronicle "Mansfield, union reach deal" – 02-23-115
17. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02-25-11
18. Chronicle "Public hearing Monday on reducing senior fees" – 02-25-11
19. Chronicle "Council still supports Masonicare" – 03-01-11
20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 03-02-11
21. Chronicle "Mansfield OK's land deal" – 03-02-11
22. Chronicle "Town wants two new schools" – 03-02-11
23. Chronicle "Mansfield ed budget comes in smaller" – 03-03-11
24. Chronicle "We offer these threads, needles" – 03-07-11"
25. Patch.com "Mansfield Youth Services Reaches Out to Grieving Residents" – 03-06-11

#### XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

The Council will discuss the direction to be given to the School Building Committee and the Board of Education regarding needed school repairs and renovations. In light of this evenings vote, members will be cognizant of the change in plans when reviewing the five-year Capital Improvement Budget.

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

March 14, 2011